

**From:** David Buzz Bryant  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 11:46am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

The settlement is a terrible idea. They cannot be allowed to walk away from the damage they've done to the industry.

In the mid-90s I co-owned a small computer graphics company. As a sideline, we also built computers for some of our clients, and had registered with Microsoft as an OEM. We only built about a dozen machines a year, though, and after two years decided it wasn't profitable enough to continue offering this service. As a result, we stopped ordering OEM packs.

Soon we received a letter from Microsoft's lawyers claiming that, since we were no longer ordering copies of Windows 95, we must be pirating their software. (This was completely baseless, by the way. I'm a straight shooter.) They actually stated in their letter that the only way we could avoid legal action by Microsoft was to immediately begin ordering copies of Windows 95 at our former rate.

In other words, Microsoft was going to take us to court because we weren't buying as much of their product as they thought we should. I believe that to be extortion.

My partner had a lawyer friend contact them, and they called off the dogs. But it left a sour taste in my mouth, and has turned me into someone no one wants to mention Microsoft around.

These people are arrogant, vicious greedheads that will do anything to win. They think they are above the law. Please don't prove them right. They are criminals that have destroyed a lot of lives in the technology sector, and they must be dealt with harshly.

Anything less than a breakup is capitulation.

Sincerely,

David Bryant

P.S. Please don't fall for their P.R. "innovation" nonsense. Ask any good programmer.